

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended): A piece of jewelry comprising:

~~(a) a band;~~

~~(b) a hollow bezel secured to a first portion of said band and~~ having an open top, an open bottom, an inside wall defining a lumen extending between said open top and said open bottom, a seat within said lumen, and an outside wall having an exterior recessed section proximate the middle of the bezel with the recessed section extending around the entire circumference of the bezel, the bezel having an upper portion above the bezel exterior recessed section and a lower portion below the bezel exterior recessed section;

~~(c) a stone mounted at least partially within said lumen of said bezel and in contact with said seat; and~~

a band having a first end attached to the exterior wall of the lower portion of the bezel,

~~(d) a hook at a second ~~portion~~ end~~ end of said band and having an opening sized to receive the recessed section of said bezel to clasp the two portions of the band together, wherein when said hook has received the recessed section of said bezel, the hook is impeded from detaching from the bezel by either the top or bottom of said bezel.

2. (original): The piece of jewelry of claim 1 wherein said band comprises at least one metal wire.

3. (previously presented): The piece of jewelry of claim 1 wherein said band has spring characteristics such that the band, hook and bezel all cooperate to hold the inside of the hook against the exterior recessed section of the bezel as the piece of jewelry is worn.

4. (original): The piece of jewelry of claim 3 wherein said spring characteristics of the band are between approximately 5 and 7 dies hard.

5. (original): The piece of jewelry of claim 1 wherein the outside wall of said bezel has a substantially hour-glass shape.

6. (original): The piece of jewelry of claim 1 further including a pair of recesses above the seat, a seat bead positioned within each of said recesses such that the edge of the stone is held in place between said seat beads and said seat.

7. (Currently amended): A jewelry piece comprising:

(a) a band having first and second ends;

(b) ~~a bezel secured to said first end of said band,~~
said bezel having an outside wall comprising a top section, a bottom section and a recessed center section around the circumference of the exterior wall, an open top, an open bottom,

and an inside wall defining a lumen extending between said open top and open bottom, and a lumen wall having a seat, and at least one recess;

(c) the bezel bottom section secured to the first end of the band, a hook formed at said second end of the band;

(d) a stone positioned at least partially within said lumen and in contact with said seat; and

(e) a seat bead positioned within said recess cooperating with said seat to hold said stone to said bezel,

wherein said hook receives said recessed center section of said bezel to secure said first and second portions of said band together.

8. (original): The jewelry piece of claim 1 wherein said bezel is formed using a lost wax casting processes and a sprue that matches the inside and outside walls of said bezel.

9. (original): The jewelry piece of claim 7 wherein said bezel is formed using a lost wax casting process and a hollow sprue that matches the inside and outside walls of the bezel.